



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,566	10/10/2001	Joseph J. Crisco III	P00493-US1	8298

3017 7590 04/10/2003

BARLOW, JOSEPHS & HOLMES, LTD.
101 DYER STREET
5TH FLOOR
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

EXAMINER

LE, TOAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2863

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/974,566

Applicant(s)

CRISCO ET AL.

Examiner

Toan M Le

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stewart et al..

Referring to claim 1, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, comprising: a plurality of sensing devices constructed and arranged orthogonal to the outer surface of the body part to detect acceleration; the plurality of sensing devices being constructed and arranged to generate a signal in response to a sensed acceleration (col. 14, lines 21-42 and 52-54); a processing device connected to the plurality of sensing devices and being constructed and arranged to receive signals from the plurality of sensing devices and determine the magnitude and direction of an impact to the body part (col. 4, lines 28-31; and col. 14, lines 53-58).

As to claim 2, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the plurality of sensing devices are single-axis linear accelerators (col. 15, lines 63-67).

Referring to claim 3, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the plurality of sensing devices are multi-axis linear

Art Unit: 2863

accelerators with at least one axis thereof being orthogonal to the outer surface of the body part (col. 7, lines 34-35; and col. 14, lines 21-42).

As to claim 4, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, further comprises: a protective layer of material positioned about the body part; a plurality of portions of cushioning material disposed between the body part and the protective layer of material (col. 17, line 19; figure 2A).

Referring to claims 5-7, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, further comprising: a carrier web being closely fitted around the body part; the plurality of sensing devices being attached to the carrier web and positioned orthogonal and proximal to the outer surface of the body part; and a plurality of carrier clips positioned between the plurality of portions of cushioning material; the carrier clips respectively carrying the plurality of sensing devices and being positioned orthogonal and proximal to the outer surface of the body part; and wherein the plurality of sensing devices are embedded within the plurality of portions of cushioning material and are positioned orthogonal and proximal to the outer surface of the body part (col. 6, lines 21-24; and col. 17, lines 21-23; figure 5).

As to claim 8, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the plurality of sensing devices are three devices positioned 120 degrees apart from one another about the circumference of the body part (col. 7, lines 57-60; figure 2B).

Referring to claim 9, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, further comprising a recording station 52 (figures 1 and 2A-2B) connected to the plurality of sensing devices (col. 5, lines 54-62).

Art Unit: 2863

As to claim 10, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the recording station is connected to the plurality of sensing devices by wire (col. 14, lines 45-47).

Referring to claim 11, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the recording station is connected to the plurality of sensing devices by radio transmission (col. 14, lines 57-58).

As to claim 12, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the body part is a head (figure 2A).

Referring to claim 13, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the plurality of sensing devices are mounted in a helmet (figure 2A).

As to claim 14, Stewart et al. disclose a device for monitoring the acceleration of a body part having an outer surface, wherein the plurality of sensing devices are mounted in a head band (col. 5, lines 12-17).

Referring to claim 22, Stewart et al. disclose a method of acceleration monitoring, comprising the steps of: attaching an acceleration-monitoring technology devices, having acceleration sensors, to an individual such that the acceleration sensors remain fixed relative to a body part of the individual during physical activity where the body part has an outer surface (col. 14, lines 21-26); measuring accelerations of the body part of the individual during physical activity along at least a first, a second and a third acceleration measurement direction, wherein the first acceleration measurement direction is orthogonal to the outer surface of the body part , and the second acceleration measurement direction is orthogonal to the outer surface of the body

Art Unit: 2863

part, and the third acceleration measurement direction is orthogonal to the outer surface of the body part (col. 14, lines 27-42); storing the accelerations of the body part of the individual during the physical activity as acceleration data in a mass storage device; retrieving the acceleration data of the body part of the individual during physical activity (col. 14, lines 60-64); determining a direction and magnitude of the impact to the body part of the individual during the physical activity and the rotational acceleration of the body part of the individual during the physical activity from the acceleration data (col. 14, lines 53-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart et al. in view of Vogt.

Referring to claims 15-21, Stewart et al. disclose a method for determining the magnitude and direction of impact to a body part having a geometric shape, comprising the steps of: positioning a plurality of accelerometers proximate to the outer surface of a body part in a defined arrangement about the surface of the body part (col. 14, lines 21-42); orienting the plurality of accelerometers to sense respective linear acceleration orthogonal to the surface of the

Art Unit: 2863

body part (col. 15, lines 63-67); recording acceleration data sensed by the plurality of accelerometers (col. 14, lines 57-58).

Stewart et al. do not disclose a method for determining the magnitude and direction of impact to a body part having a geometric shape comprising the steps of: providing a hit profile function from the geometric shape of the body part and the positioning of the plurality of accelerometers thereabout; generating a plurality of potential hit results from the hit profile function; comparing the plurality of potential hit results to the acceleration data sensed by the plurality of accelerometers; best fit matching one of the potential hit results to the acceleration data to determine a best fit hit results; and determining the magnitude of linear acceleration and the direction of an impact to the body part from the best fit hit result.

Vogt disclose a method for sensor signal prediction comprising the steps of: providing a profile function; generating a plurality of potential results from the profile function (col. 6, lines 40-45 and 57-62); comparing the plurality of potential results to the sensed data; best fit matching one of the potential results to the sensed data to determine a best fit using least-square regression model (col. 4, lines 14-17; and col. 6, lines 46-55; figures 3-6).

Vogt does not teach a hit profile function of the geometric shape of the body part approximate to a circle and the positioning of the plurality of accelerometers thereabout, wherein the hit profile function is equal to $a * \cos(s-b) + c$ where a is the impact magnitude, s is the arc defining the accelerometer position, b is the impact direction and c is the radial acceleration due to pure rotation about the Z-axis to determine the magnitude of linear acceleration and the direction of an impact to the body part from the best fit hit results and estimating the rotational

Art Unit: 2863

acceleration of the body part by multiplying the distance from the location of the impact to an axis of rotation of the body part by the magnitude of the linear acceleration of the body part.

However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied the method of Vogt into the method of Stewart et al. for simulating the magnitude and direction of impact to a body part comprising a plurality of accelerometers in a defined arrangement about the surface of the body part in a real time to provide specific data as to actual human injuries during physical activity.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,383,363 to Kulmaczewski U.S. Patent No. 5,487,305 to Ristic et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,819,206 to Horton et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan M Le whose telephone number is (703) 305-4016. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0655.

Application/Control Number: 09/974,566

Page 8

Art Unit: 2863

Toan Le

April 4, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Barlow', written in a cursive style.

John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800